

NEW JERSEY ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE UPDATE JANUARY 28, 2005

As of January 27, 2005, 924 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site; 451 infested host trees and 473 high-risk exposed host trees. Felling crews continued to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Weather conditions have hampered tree removals in some areas. In the first phase of tree removal, approximately 1,000 host trees will be removed, including the original 410 identified as infested. Over the next several months, more than 4,000 host trees will be removed.

In support of the ALB Program, the Union County Resource Recovery Facility in Rahway, operated by Covanta Union, Inc., has accepted and burned ALB-infested wood chips generated by the tree removals, converting the biomass to electricity.

On Wednesday, December 29, 2004, the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Management, granted a special permit to the Rahway Incinerator. To date, 38 truckloads (approximately 20 cubic yards each) of wood chips have been delivered to this site from the ALB Carteret infestation area.

In addition, Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey has offered to remove a number of host trees under power lines adjacent to the New Jersey Turnpike within the quarantine area running between Linden and Woodbridge in support of the ALB Program.

Studies conducted by scientists at Cornell University and the People's Republic of China, General Administration of Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine on DNA samples collected from adult Asian longhorned beetles at the Carteret infestation site have determined they differ genetically from samples on Asian longhorned beetles collected from New York City, Jersey City, Chicago and Toronto. These findings suggest the Carteret infestation is a separate introduction into the United States, and not a result of spread from Jersey City, New York City, Chicago or Toronto.

Additionally, a study being conducted by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service scientists to age the Carteret infestation is currently estimating the infestation to be at least six years old. The study dates the infestation back to 1998, prior to the implementation of the Solid Wood Packing Material Rule.